

LISTING OF CLAIMS**Claim 1—(Currently Amended)**

A device for holding and slicing bagels with a knife comprising:

an elongated base having a first end, a second end and [a] an intermediate recessed slot extending axially therealong from the first end to the second end ~~below the base~~;

end portions extending vertically upward from the base at the first end and the second end, ~~said end portions extending higher than the flexible side members~~, and said end portions each comprising a pair of spaced members having a space therebetween extending downwardly into the base slot to permit passage of a knife;

a pair of spaced opposing side members each having a substantially rectangular configuration and being flexibly attached to the base at one end of said side member and extending ~~between and below~~ the end portions of the base, said side members having inner and outer surfaces, with tapered, ribbed gripping means on the inner surfaces to securingly engage a bagel and ribbed gripping means on the outer surface to facilitate gripping and squeezing the side members into engagement with the bagel and wherein said side members are angled outwardly from the base to facilitate entry and centering of a bagel of any size; and,

wherein a bagel is held by the tapered, ribbed inner gripping means when the flexible side members are squeezed together and a knife slices the bagel, passing through space between the side members into the base slot.

Claim 2—(Original)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the device is a one piece molded plastic unit.

Claim 3—(Original)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:

the end portions each include triangular guide members extending downwardly from the end portion to the base to guide a bagel into position between the side members.

Claim 4—(Original)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:

the gripping means on the inner surface of the side members comprises a plurality of tapered spaced ribs on the opposing surfaces thereof.

Claim 5—(Original)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:

the gripping means on the outer surfaces of the side members comprises a plurality of spaced ribs and an outwardly projecting outer surface on the upper portion thereof to permit gripping said members to squeeze a bagel between the side members.

Claim 6—(Currently Amended)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:

the end members each include an upper surface, said surface being sloped to facilitate entry of a knife in the space therebetween at each end and said end portions extending higher than the flexible side members.

Claim 7—(Original)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the side members each include a lower elongated edge attached to the base with the side member extending cantilevered upwardly therefrom, said members being pivotable about the lower edge.

Claim 8—(Original)

A device for holding and slicing bagels in accordance with Claim 4 wherein:

the spaced ribs curve outwardly from the side member and then taper to the base.